

# Memories That Live

## UTAH COUNTY CENTENNIAL HISTORY

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took the part of the convert, he did it so well and so impressed was Brigham Young, who was present, that the actor was called to go into the mission field and make converts. — Maria D. Taylor.

*The Pulsipher House*—The Pulsipher House was located on the corner of Second South and University Avenue, and was built by Mrs. Esther C. Pulsipher, widow of William Pulsipher, who died in Hebron, Utah, on March 12, 1880.

Mrs. Pulsipher was very anxious to educate her children in a good school, so she applied to President Erastus Snow for a release from the mission she had been called upon to fill with her husband in Southern Utah. She and her family came to Provo in 1882, where they resided with Mrs. Deborah Billings for a few months, as the home she expected to occupy was not completed. The builders had enlarged the house ten feet each way and had added an upper story, which made it necessary to use it as a hotel.

The house faced the east and was entered by way of a front porch, leading into a hall with a staircase. On the north side were two bedrooms, and on the south side was a parlor which was about equal in size to the two rooms on the north. At the west end of the hall was a large dining room, warmed by a fair-sized heating stove. A large dining room table accommodated the boarders. An outside door on the south end led to another porch. West of this room were the kitchen, pantry and storeroom. Sugar, rice, flour, etc., were purchased in quantities, making a storeroom quite necessary.

Underneath these back rooms was a cellar with an extra large, open well that provided the culinary water for the hotel. Going upstairs from the front door, one found rather choice front rooms to the right and to the left, but on each side of the hall, extending the length of the back part of the house; were smaller rooms, very convenient for sleeping. Each of these contained a fair-sized window and space for only necessary furniture.

Lawns, flowers and trees have always made the premises to this attractive hotel one of the beauty spots of our lovely "garden city." When the "Pulsipher House" changed hands, W. D. Roberts, Jr., became the proprietor and operated it for many years. It was about 1901 when he enlarged the building in order to make room for the many travelers who wished to stay at his attractive hotel. He had partitions removed to make a fair-sized lobby north of the staircase. He also combined the dining room, kitchen, pantry and storeroom to make an adequate dining room, and built on a new kitchen and also a display room for traveling men to show their samples. A third story was also added.

In a few years he and his wife decided to build on a north wing, three stories high, leaving room for a beautiful front lawn and flowers. This addition afforded large rooms for people who desired quarters for living at the hotel for months at a time.

The top story was not immediately partitioned off into rooms, but was used as a dance hall for a while. At this time most up-to-date

plumbing, beautiful electric fixtures, and modern decorations were installed. These added much to the attractiveness of the establishment, which has always been the most alluring hotel in the city—Edna Pulsipher Taylor.

*Provo Canyon*—William W. Ferguson was born August 28, 1835, in Glasgow, Scotland. He came to Utah as a very young man, experiencing the usual hardships, and working his way across land and sea.

He worked for a number of years in the gold mines of Nevada. When he had saved enough money, he purchased a large farm about three miles south of the mouth of Provo Canyon.

In April, 1889, the Provo Canyon Toll Co. hired William to take care of the toll gate, which was then located near Spring Dell. Just opposite the Fisherman's House, near Bridal Veil Falls, some distance beyond the toll gate, he built a home, where he spent most of his time in caring for the travelers. He provided good sleeping quarters, or allowed travelers to bring their bedding and stay for the night. Their teams were also well cared for. He was an excellent cook, and his reputation spread rapidly. In time, he added a store to his hotel, and his place was known to many as "Billie Ferguson's Half-way House." The jolly proprietor also offered entertainment to his guests by singing and playing on his banjo. He is remembered for his specialty act of dancing in his full native kilts with a glass of water on his head, never spilling a drop. His hotel was a refuge for wild animal life, which "Billie" loved, and he, himself, could summon most of his animal friends, much to the enjoyment of his traveling guests.

The winter of 1897 was exceptionally severe, and on February 19 a large snow slide came down the mountain slope, crossed over on the opposite side of the canyon, and on its return, demolished the hotel and killed William Ferguson, who lay sleeping in his bed. The hotel has never been rebuilt, but it is one of Provo's fondest memories.—Elizabeth Ferguson.

—Heart Throbs, Carter.

#### THE LEATHER INDUSTRY OF THE PIONEERS

The pioneers had not been long in their new homes in the Rocky Mountains before the necessity for the development of home industries became apparent. Their isolated position and remoteness from sources of supplies, together with the wear and tear of frontier life on equipment and clothing brought about the need of some means of replenishing such articles as had been brought with them. The result was the establishment of many home industries, not for material gain so much as to supply the needs of the people and to make the community self-supporting and independent.

The advice of Brigham Young to the people was that they produce what they consumed. That they do not indulge in expensive luxuries that would involve them in debt, but rather to produce through their own industries every necessary article for home consumption. Conse-